

were a male Argus Pheasant (*Argusianus argus*), an adult male Regent Bird (*Sericulus chrysocephalus*), a Green-backed Trumpeter (*Psophia viridis*), a Double-banded Puff-bird (*Bucco bicinctus*) "probably never before exhibited alive," and a chick of the Galeated Curassow (*Pauxi pauxi*). Among the birds bred in the Park during the year were three Upland Geese (*Chloëphaga magellanica*) and a Banded Curassow (*Crax sclateri*)—both apparently first records of the breeding of these species in the United States. The census of birds on January 1, 1919, showed 736 species represented by 2,406 individuals as compared with 813 species and 2,799 individuals the previous year. The number of species in some of the larger groups in the collection were as follows: Galliformes, 68; Columbiformes, 61; Anseriformes, 54; Psittaciformes, 66, and Passeriformes, 332.

The Tropical Research Station in the Bartica District of British Guiana was compelled to suspend field work, but the Director, William Beebe, and the Preparateur, John Tee Van, "spent all the time available in a careful review of past collections and of zoological literature for records of the higher vertebrates of British Guiana, resulting in a preliminary check list" which will be published in the near future. The number of species of birds credited to the Bartica District is 426. An expedition in charge of Director Beebe sailed in February, 1919, to reopen the station on a new and permanent site at Katabo, at the junction of the Mazaruni and Cuyuni Rivers.—T. S. P.

The Meaning of Natural Control.—In a paper¹ with this title Mr. John D. Tothill calls attention to the obvious fact that in each generation of any animal, all but two individuals from the total progeny of each pair must perish. This mortality is due chiefly to natural control, and in explaining how the natural control of certain insects is accomplished the author makes certain interesting references to birds.

Among predatory enemies of insects the chief are birds and insects. In the case of the Forest Tent-caterpillar the percentage of destruction due to various enemies is estimated, and chickadees and mites together are credited with the destruction of 25% of the eggs. Doubtless the major share of these fall to the chickadees. As further examples of the work of birds, the author states that the Cecropia moth in New Brunswick is held in check chiefly by the Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers, and that the Red-eyed Vireo is one of the chief factors in the control of the Fall Webworm.

In the tabulation of the enemies of the latter insect, birds are credited with a percentage of destruction of the broods, varying in different years, from 11.4% to 89.5%. In 1912, when the insect was fairly plentiful, a reduction in numbers was brought about chiefly by parasites (insects). In succeeding years the parasites gradually died out as the insect became rare, and control was maintained almost exclusively by birds.—W. L. M.

¹ Proc. Ent. Soc., Nova Scotia, 1918, pp. 10-14.